

Scripture Leviticus 10:1-11
Singing: 11:1-4 – 241:1-5, 9 – 222:4-7 – 451:1, 10

Opening observations

- Prayer is the *expression of holy desires* before God (Brakel)
For the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. (1 Cor. 14:15)

- No recorded NT prayer repeats the Lord's Prayer
- Prayer is a *dangerous* work (Lev. 10:1-2)

The Address of the Lord's Prayer

I. Why an address? II. What is the address?

I. The Purpose of the address

A. Opening phrase (Our Father ...) is *called* 'address or invocation'

1. it points out *to whom we pray or whom we call upon to hear us!*

2. the Gospels record Jesus' own example of the use of this address

3. Yet both OT and NT saints used different *addresses*

a. there is usually a *correlation* between *circumstances and address*

● Acts 4:24; Rom. 15:5-6; Rom. 15:13; Eph. 3:14-15

● some OT examples: 1 Kings 18:36-37; 2 Kings 19:15ff

B. The address defines *to Whom we pray*

1. Let this not be a *frivolous decoration* but a *faithful invocation*

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6

a. approach Him **believing He is** = exist as He revealed Himself

b. approach Him **believing He will keep His Word** = reward those that seek Him diligently

II. The Meaning of the address

A. God has revealed many *addresses* we may use in calling upon Him

B. Yet Jesus mainly revealed God's Name as Father

1. Father is the most intimate and beautiful Name of God

2. Jesus emphasis of on God as *Father*, was purposeful: Cat 120a

a. to stir a ***childlike reverence***

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honor? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Mal. 1:6

b. to create a ***childlike confidence***

What shall we then say to these things? If God [the Father] be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Rom. 8:31-32

C. **Our** Father: *points to united family in the Father through Jesus Christ*

1. Is "God become our Father in Christ" true for us all?

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me (...) Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. (John 8:42, 44)

2. If not a *child of God through faith*, may I use the Lord's Prayer

a. the content of this prayer is *appropriate* for all to seek

b. the address of this prayer isn't *appropriate* for all to use

3. If you sense this as 'exclusive' than remember that *your unbelief and disobedience excludes you.*

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. (John 1:12)

Take along ...

A. Treasure the gift prayer: *it is gift that comes from and returns to God!*

B. Guard the sweet time for prayer: *follow Jesus' example in prayer life*

Let prayer always be the first resort and not the last.

When problems get Christians praying they do more good than harm.

Mountains are always climbed with the knees bent.